

that he should have expected the latter bird to have been the Chinese species, *Cotile sinensis*.

Mr. W. E. DE WINTON exhibited some interesting specimens of Willow-Grouse and Ptarmigan, selected from a large collection of these birds sent from St. Petersburg.

Mr. T. PARKIN exhibited a skin of a very rare species of Petrel, identified by Mr. Osbert Salvin as *Æstrelata incerta* of Schlegel. Mr. Parkin shot the bird during a calm, on his recent voyage to the South Atlantic, in lat. 39° 51' S., long. 8° 49' E.

XXIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 164.]

38. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.* Nos. 11 & 12. 1894.

We have already noticed Mr. W. Ogilvie-Grant's paper on the plumage of the Red Grouse, but in No. 11 of our contemporary there are some other interesting papers which deserve mention. One of these relates to the birds of the Island of Barra, in the Outer Hebrides, by Mr. John MacRury, whom we thank for a separate copy of the entire treatise, concluded in No. 12. Mr. Lionel Hinxman's valuable report on the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland during 1893 also runs through the two numbers. In No. 12 Mr. W. Eagle Clarke shows the strong probability of the Hawfinch having actually bred in Berwickshire; it is well known that the species has been gradually spreading northwards for years past. Mr. W. Berry gives an account of the successful introduction of the Red Grouse on Tentsmuir, a barren tract of low-lying moorland on the edge of the sea, and nearly as flat. Among the miscellaneous ornithological notes the most important is, perhaps, Dr. Charles Stuart's record of the nesting of the Great Spotted Woodpecker in Berwickshire.

39. *Chapman (F. M.) on the Birds of New York.*

[Visitors' Guide to the Local Collection of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. With an Annotated List of the Birds known to occur within fifty miles of New York City. By Frank M. Chapman. 8vo. New York, 1894.]

The American Museum of Natural History in Central Park, New York City, contains a separate collection of local birds: that is, of birds which occur, more or less frequently, within fifty miles of the city. This series has been formed to aid students in the identification of the native birds, and the present 'Guide' has been written to illustrate it. After a preliminary discussion of the avifauna as a whole, in the course of which the 348 species attributed to it are divided into eight categories, according to their modes of occurrence, the New York birds are enumerated in systematic order, following the nomenclature and arrangement of the 'Check-list,' and notes are given as to their distribution and when and where they are found in the district referred to.

40. *De Vis on Birds from Mount Maneao, New Guinea.*

[Report on Ornithological Specimens collected in New Guinea. By C. W. De Vis, M.A., Curator, Queensland Museum. 8 pp. Brisbane, 1894.]

Mr. De Vis reports on a collection of 210 birds, referable to 80 species, made for Sir William Macgregor by Capt. Armit and Mr. Guise during his recent exploration of Mount Maneao in British New Guinea. The following species are described as new:—*Alcyone læta*, *Rhipidura manyocensis*, *Monachella viridis*, *Pæcilodryas armiti*, *P. modesta*, *Micræca griseiceps*, *M. punctata*, *Acanthiza papuensis*, *Symmorphus nigripectus*, *Eulacestoma* (gen. nov. ex fam. Laniidarum) *nigripectus*, *Sittella griseiceps*, *Melirrhopetes ornatus*, *M. collaris*, *Ptilotis (Ptiloprora, subg. nov.) guisei*, *Drymædus brevicauda*, *Anthus gutturalis*, *Cnemophilus mariæ*, and *Ptilopus bellus orientalis*. Amongst these the most remarkable forms are the *Acanthiza* (an Australian genus, now first recognized in New Guinea) and the *Cnemophilus*, a second species of

this new genus of Paradiseidæ (see Ibis, 1891, p. 414, pl. x.).

Besides the birds from Mount Maneao, Mr. De Vis gives a supplementary list of species met with by Sir W. Macgregor at Cloudy Bay, Goodenough Island, and the Kumusi River. On Goodenough Island a new Thrush was discovered (*Merula canescens*), and at the Kumusi River a new Paradise-bird (*Paradisea intermedia*), halfway between *P. raggiana* and *P. augustæ-victoriæ*.

41. *Foster on Ornithological Literature, 1876-83.*

[A Consideration of some Ornithological Literature, with Extracts from current criticism: 1876-83. By L. S. Foster. Abstr. Proc. Linn. Soc. New York, 1893-94, No. 6, p. 47.]

This is an abstract of a paper read before the Linnean Society of New York in October 1893. The list of memoirs and the short criticisms annexed are taken from the reviews published in the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club from 1876 to 1883, and are held to "represent pretty fairly the ornithological literature of this important period, particularly so far as North America is concerned."

42. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*: or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts CXVIII., CXIX. 4to. London: 1894. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 18 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

Two parts of '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*' issued in October and November last year carry the account of the birds nearly to the end of the Caprimulgidæ. In the latter part the following plates are given:—

- Aves, tab. 58. *Antrostomus** *saturatus*.
 „ 58a. *Caprimulgus yucatanicus*.
 „ 58b. ——— *salvini*.

* *Caprimulgus saturatus* in the text, p. 383.

43. *Goeldi on the Birds of Brazil.*

[*Monographias Brasileiras*.—II. *As Aves do Brasil*, por Emilio Augusto Goeldi, Dr. Ph., Director do Museu Paraense. Primeira Parte. 12mo. Rio de Janeiro, 1894.]

Dr. Goeldi's energy has already produced the first part of a handbook of the birds of Brazil, which we trust will have the effect of waking up some of the more enlightened inhabitants of that sleepy and much neglected country to take a little interest in its avifauna. After a preliminary dissertation, in the course of which the ornithology of Brazil is estimated to contain about 1610 species, the author gives a popular account of the Raptores, Psittaci, Picariæ, and first families of the Passeres, of that vast and varied land, not omitting to introduce field-notes on such of them as he is acquainted with by personal observation. Dr. Goeldi has evidently an excellent general knowledge of American birds, although we cannot quite agree to some points in his arrangement and nomenclature.

44. *Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds.'*

[*Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands*. Issued by Lord Lilford, F.Z.S. &c., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part XXII., December 1892; XXIII., March 1893; XXIV., June 1893; XXV., October 1893; XXVI., November 1893; XXVII., December 1893; XXVIII., September 1894; XXIX., November 1894. Royal 8vo. London.]

Since this important work was last noticed (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 268) eight more parts have made their appearance, and carry it on to the 29th part. Each of these contains 10 or 11 beautiful coloured figures of our native birds from drawings by Thorburn, Keulemans, and other excellent artists, such as have never been surpassed, and hardly, if ever, equalled for accuracy and artistic treatment. We are pleased to observe that in the recent numbers the letterpress, with its interesting notes, has assumed a greater development.

We are told that about four or five parts more will complete the work, which, when ultimately arranged and bound, will make 10 or 12 volumes.

45. *Lucas on the Affinities of the Cœrebidæ.*

[Notes on the Anatomy and Affinities of the *Cœrebidæ* and other American Birds. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvii. p. 299.]

Mr. Lucas has made a careful examination of various points in the structure of some of the Cœrebidæ and allied forms of Oscinine Passeres, but has not arrived at very satisfactory results. The study of a considerable number of specimens has lessened his hopes that anatomical and osteological characters may be relied upon to show relationship among the Passeres; we have, however, some positive statements. In the characters of their palate the Cœrebidæ differ from the Mniotiltidæ and resemble in some points the Drepanididæ and some of the Tanagridæ. In their tongue the Cœrebidæ differ entirely from the Tanagridæ, and find their nearest analogue in the Australian *Acanthorhynchi*. *Certhodea*, of the Galapagos, belongs to the Mniotiltidæ. *Myiadectes* is allied to the Thrushes rather than to *Ampelis*, and *Phœornis* is still more certainly a member of the Turdine group, whereas *Phainopepla* is undoubtedly closely affine to *Ampelis*.

46. *Madarász on the Nesting of the Nutcracker in Hungary.*

[Die Nester des Nussähers (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*). 'Aquila,' 1894, p. 48.]

Dr. Madarász gives an account of the nesting of the Nutcracker in Hungary in 1894. Five nests were obtained, of which three have gone to the National Museum at Budapest. In the case of one of these, procured by our friend Mr. C. G. Danford on the Curu Gales, both the parent birds were likewise obtained. A nest which contained young birds was half-domed over, like that of a Magpie. Dr. Madarász thinks that this addition to the nest is made after the young birds are hatched.

47. *Martorelli on Italian Birds of Prey.*

[Monografia Illustrata degli Uccelli di Rapina in Italia. Del Dott. Giacinto Martorelli. Mem. Soc. Italiana Sc. Nat. Milano, v. pp. 215, 1895.]

In this handsome treatise Dr. Martorelli enumerates all

the species of "Raptors" ascribed to the Italian Kingdom, commencing with the Vultures and winding up with the Owls. If the latter were to be included, we are rather surprised to see them placed so far apart from the Harriers, which follow the Vultures. Woodcuts of considerable merit are given in all cases where representations of the heads, talons, or wings are likely to be useful to the reader, and the differences between the scheme of the primaries in the Hen-, Pallid, and Montagu's Harriers are well rendered. In addition to the woodcuts there are full-page coloured plates of *Aquila heliaca*, *A. nipalensis*, *A. pomarina*, *Falco barbarus* (juv. et ad.), *F. feldeggi* (juv. et ad.). The letterpress is excellent and not too long.

48. *Mathew's 'Birds of Pembrokeshire.'*

[The Birds of Pembrokeshire and its Islands. By the Rev. Murray A. Mathew, M.A., F.L.S. 8vo. London, 1894. Pp. i-lij & 131. R. H. Porter.]

In his introduction to this interesting volume Mr. Mathew apologizes—rather unnecessarily, we think—for the poverty of Pembrokeshire in bird-life as compared with some other counties. Of course the western position of the county is adverse to the existence of several of the Warblers which annually visit the greater part of England, though we have little doubt that closer examination in the more wooded northern portions of the county would add one or two species to the list. Even as it is, Pembroke, according to Mr. Mathew, adds a new Warbler to the British list in *Hypolais polyglotta*, which the author watched daily in the summer of 1886, though he could not bring himself to shoot the little songster for identification. This, the western representative of the more eastern *H. icterina*, breeds in Spain and in Western France about as far as the Somme, so that, if any member of the genus crossed the channel and visited Pembrokeshire, it would be this one; we have even strong grounds for believing that this species has nested for at least two successive years near Lancing, in Sussex; but at present we must say "not proven" in both cases.

It is, however, for the birds which breed along the coast and on the islands that Pembroke is most distinguished; and Mr. Mathew gives excellent descriptions of the Gannets, Kittiwakes, and other sea-birds at Grassholm, the enormous colony of Manx Shearwaters on Skomer, and the cliff-frequenter of the picturesque island of Ramsey, off St. David's. Capital photographs of these are supplied, and there are two useful maps. According to our experience, it is a melancholy fact that the introduction to a work is comparatively seldom read, except by reviewers; but this omission would be a great mistake in the present instance, for the remarks on migration and distribution form a very important feature of the book.

49. *Menzbier and Severtzow on the Ornithology of Turkestan.*

[Dr. N. A. Severtzow. Ornithologie du Turkestan et des Pays adjacents. Par M. le Docteur M. A. Menzbier. Livr. 4. Text & Atlas. Folio. Moscou, 1894.]

The fourth livraison and accompanying atlas of plates of Menzbier's 'Ornithology of Turkestan,' based upon Severtzow's researches, has lately reached us (see *Ibis*, 1892, p. 336). The author explains that his time having been taken up with his 'Oiseaux de la Russie,' written in Russian, the present work has been unavoidably delayed, but will now be pushed on to a termination. The present demi-livraison finishes the account of the diurnal and nocturnal Rapaces, and gives us coloured figures of the following species:—*Gyps himalayensis*, *Bubo turcomanus*, *Bubo ignavus sibiricus*, *Syrnium biddulphi*.

50. *Meyer on new Birds from the East Indies.*

[Neue Vögel aus dem Ostindischen Archipel. Von A. B. Meyer. Abhandl. u. Ber. k. zool. u. Anthropol. Mus. Dresden, 1894-95, No. 2.]

Dr. Meyer describes as new *Basilornis galeatus*, from S.E. New Guinea (locality not quite certain), and *Lamprothorax wilhelminæ* (new genus and species of Paradiseidæ), from the Arfak Mountains, New Guinea, and makes remarks on

other birds. The new Paradise-bird, a most beautiful form allied to *Lophorhina*, but with lengthened middle tail-feathers, is figured of the size of life.

51. *Millais on the British Tetraonidæ.*

[Game Birds and Shooting-Sketches, illustrating the Habits, Modes of Capture, Stages of Plumage, and the Hybrids and Varieties which occur amongst them. By John Guille Millais, F.Z.S. &c. Second edition. Royal 8vo. London, 1894. Henry Sotheran & Co.]

In 'The Ibis,' 1892, pp. 453-455, we noticed favourably and at some length the first (folio) edition of this work, expressing our regret that its costliness must necessarily restrict the wide circulation it so well deserved. Mr. Millais appears to have taken the hint, and, by omitting the large coloured plates, "made in Germany," he has reduced the book in price and also in size, which is doubly advantageous. In the text we do not find any material alteration, and the illustrations are almost as before; black and white photogravures being substituted for the coloured ones above mentioned. We have now both editions, but the present handy volume will undoubtedly be the one to which we shall more frequently turn, and we can thoroughly recommend it to our readers.

52. *North on Eggs of Australian Birds.*

[Oological Notes. By Alfred J. North, F.L.S. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, ser. 2, ix. p. 39.]

Continuing his interesting notes on the nesting of Australian birds, Mr. North describes the nest and eggs of *Ptilotis analoga*, from North-eastern Queensland, and eggs of a Cuckoo, believed to belong to *Lamprococcyx malayanus*, from the same district. The latter were found in nests of *Gerygone magnirostris*.

53. *Pleske on the Birds of Prjevalski's Journeys in Central Asia.*

[Wissenschaftliche Resultate der von N. M. Przewalski nach Central-Asien unternommenen Reisen. Auf Kosten einer von seiner kaiserlichen Hoheit dem Grossfürsten-Thronfolger Nikolai Alexandrowitsch gespen-

deten Summe herausgegeben von der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften.—Zoologischer Theil. Band II., Vögel. Bearbeitet von Th. Pleske. Lief. 2, 3. Folio. St. Petersburg, 1890-94.]

After some delay we are glad to receive a new part of Herr Pleske's illustrated work on the Birds of the Prjevalski expeditions, of which we have already noticed the commencement (*Ibis*, 1890, p. 256). Parts ii. (1890) and iii. (1894) continue the account of the Passerine Birds (*Sylviidæ*, *Timeiidæ*, *Accentoridæ*, *Paridæ*, &c.), and make many rare and beautiful species of the far east of the Russian Empire known to us.

The following species are figured :—

- Plate II. *Phylloscopus tristis*; *P. tristis*, var. *sindiana*; *Reguloides superciliosus*, var. *mandellii*.
 „ IV. *Pratincola maura*, var. *przewalskii*; *Accentor alpinus*, var. *rufilatus*.
 „ VI. *Lophobasileus elegans*; *Leptopæcile sophiæ*; *L. obscura*.
 „ VIII. *Pæcile songara*; *P. affinis*; *P. superciliosa*.
 „ IX. *Periparus ater*, var. *rufipectus*; *Lophophanes dichroides*; *Sitta cæsia*, var. *amurensis*; *S. przewalskii*.

Plate v. is devoted to eggs. The plates are drawn by Mützel and Kenlemans.

54. Prentis's 'Notes on the Birds of Rainham.'

[Notes on the Birds of Rainham, including the District between Chatham and Sittingbourne. By Walter Prentis. 8vo. London, 1894. Pp. 92. Gurney & Jackson.]

Mr. Prentis modestly says that perhaps his little book "may contribute something towards a future history of the birds of Kent"; and we trust that such a work may proceed from his pen, for we can think of no one so well qualified for the undertaking. It was during the wet summer of 1860 that Mr. Prentis began to make a study of the birds of his neighbourhood, and he has continued his observations ever since, with results which can hardly be overvalued by the working ornithologist. There is not a particle of padding in the 88 pages, but all is good genuine matter. Mr. Prentis, it will be remembered, obtained the first of the two authenticated

British examples of the Red-throated Pipit. At p. 35 there is an unfortunate—but obvious—slip of the pen as regards the scientific name of the Reed-Bunting, and hypercritical persons may find some of the author's sentences inelegant, but the facts are so clear that "he who runs may read."

55. *Rake on the Breeding of Nyctidromus albicollis.*

[Note on the Breeding of the Nightjar. By the late Beaven Rake, M.D. Journ. Trinidad Field-Nat. Club, ii. p. 109, 1894.]

In Trinidad *Nyctidromus albicollis* lays two eggs on the ground. They are strongly coloured, differing from those of *Caprimulgus europæus* in having more red both in the ground-tint and in the mottling. (Cf. Biol. Centr.-Am., Aves, ii. p. 393.)

56. *Reichenow on the Birds of German East-Africa.*

[Die Vögel Deutsch-Ost-Afrikas. Von Dr. Ant. Reichenow. Mit über 100 in den Text gedruckten schwarzen und farbigen Abbildungen nach der Natur gezeichnet von Anna Held. Reimer, Berlin, 1894. 250 pp.]

Dr. Reichenow's work, although issued separately, forms a portion of the third volume of Stuhlmann's 'Mit Emin Pascha ins Herz von Afrika' (see Ibis, 1894, p. 445), which is to be devoted to an account of the zoology of that country under the general editorship of Dr. Möbius. It is evidently designed not so much as a strictly scientific work as to enable future explorers of this portion of German Africa to make themselves acquainted with what is already known and to facilitate further researches. At the same time it will be of very great interest to the scientific student of the Ethiopian avifauna.

Dr. Reichenow commences with a historical account of the many naturalists and travellers who have added to our knowledge of the birds of German East-Africa, and have brought it up to its present standpoint, since Bojer, in 1824, made a beginning by sending to Vienna a collection of birds from Zanzibar. Speke, Grant, Kirk, Thomson, and Hunter are Englishmen to whom the results now arrived at are

partly due. But we quite agree with Dr. Reichenow that by far the greater proportion of this vast work has been accomplished by the indefatigable energy of his fellow-countrymen. Hildebrandt, Fischer, Böhm, and Emin Pasha alike sacrificed their lives to the scientific exploration of Eastern Africa, and two others—Stuhlmann and Neumann—who have also done much, are still, happily, living and continuing their collections in the same country. To this historical account is appended a list of 81 publications which refer to the ornithology of German East-Africa.

In the second chapter Dr. Reichenow proceeds to explain the relation of the avifauna of the German East-African Protectorate to that of the whole continent. He points out that the Protectorate belongs mainly to the S.E. steppe-district of Africa, though at the western border it intrudes on the great West-African wood-region. Of the 728 species of birds yet recognized within its limits, about 30 only are western forms, and the remaining 690 are south-eastern. After several pages of instructions as to collecting and preserving birds, the rest of the work is devoted to the systematic account of these 728 species, commencing with the Struthionidæ and ending with the Sylviidæ, according to the fashion of Dr. Reichenow's system. Short characters are given not only of the species, but also of the higher groups, and a number of "keys" are likewise introduced. We regret the entire absence of synonymy. No doubt it would have increased the bulk of the volume considerably, but we think it would have been better to have quoted the references that specially relate to occurrences within the Protectorate. We may also remark that, though exact localities are assigned to each species, no authorities are added for these occurrences. The numerous illustrations, plain and coloured, introduced into the text will be of material assistance to those who use this volume as a handbook.

57. *Reiser on the Avifauna of the Balkans.*

[Materialien zu einer Ornis Balcanica.—II. Bulgarien (einschliesslich Ost-Rumeliens und der Dobrudscha. Von Othmar Reiser, Custos am Bosn.-Herzeg. Landes-museum. Wien, 1894. 1 vol. 204 pp.]

The Balkan, with its surrounding districts, has long remained one of the least explored parts of Europe as regards its birds, and we shall all welcome the contribution to our knowledge of its ornithology now before us. Herr Reiser, the Custos of the Museum at Sarajevo, in Bosnia, has made three successive journeys over the area treated of for the purpose of collecting, and has, besides, the vantage-ground of his residence near one end of the Balkan range.

The author commences with a lively narrative of his excursions in 1890, 1891, and 1893, the routes of which are plainly indicated in an accompanying map. To this are added a register of preceding authorities on the subject, and a nominal list of the birds of Bulgaria and the Dobrudsha, which, so far as is yet known, is shown to embrace 363 species, besides some others uncertain. The special portion of the work, which follows, contains a series of field-notes and critical remarks on the birds of Bulgaria, as observed by the author and his assistants, or as met with by former authorities.

Among the species of particular interest that are mentioned we remark *Saxicola amphileuca*, *Accentor collaris*, *Parus lugubris*, *Otocorys penicillata*, *Euspiza melanocephala*, *Dendropicus syriacus*, and *Turtur risorius decaocto*. Full notes are given about the Eagles and Vultures. The following species are figured:—*Buteo desertorum*, *Saxicola amphileuca*, *Passer hispaniolensis*, and *Otocorys penicillata* and its eggs (concerning which see Ibis, 1894, p. 140).

58. Rhoads's Edition of Ord's 'Zoology.'

[A Reprint of the North-American Zoology, by George Ord. Being an exact reproduction of the part originally compiled by Mr. Ord for Johnson and Warner, and first published by them in their Second American Edition of Guthrie's 'Geography' in 1815. Taken from Mr. Ord's private annotated copy. To which is added an Appendix on the more important Scientific and Historic Questions involved. By Samuel N. Rhoads. 8vo. New Jersey, 1894.]

Strictly speaking, as we are told in the introduction, this is not the second American edition, for there was a quarto, which is not very rare, dated 1794-95, but it is the second of

the three editions published by Johnson and Warner. Both the aforesaid 4to, however, and the edition of 1809 contain no attempt at systematic zoology, and the edition of 1815 is the first of any value. Of the last of Johnson and Warner's editions (that of 1820), Mr. Rhoads has been able to find one copy. Of the 1815 edition Dr. Coues, well known for his bibliographic zeal, was able to find only one damaged example, and the announcement of its rarity was followed by the disappearance of the copy belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Mr. Rhoads had the good fortune to discover a copy in the College of Physicians of that city, and he has done well in reprinting it; the value of the work as a literary curiosity being now greatly increased by the appendix furnished by the editor.

59. *Ridgway on new Birds from the Galápagos.*

[Descriptions of Twenty-two new Species of Birds from the Galápagos Islands. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvii. p. 357, 1894.]

A very large and valuable collection of birds from the Galápagos, made by Dr. G. Baur and Mr. F. C. Adams in 1891, was referred to Mr. Ridgway for determination on the return of these gentlemen to America, but the study of the specimens has been unavoidably delayed. Mr. Ridgway now describes as new the following twenty-two species:—*Nesomimus bauri*, *N. bindloei*, *N. adamsi*, *Certhidea salvini*, *C. bifasciata*, *C. mentalis*, *C. albamarlei*, *C. luteola*, *Geospiza barringtoni*, *G. propinqua*, *G. bauri*, *G. albamarlei*, *G. fratercula*, *G. debilirostris*, *G. acutirostris*, *Camarhynchus rostratus*, *C. productus*, *C. salvini*, *C. affinis*, *Pyrocephalus carolensis*, *P. intercedens*, and *P. abingdoni*.

It will be observed that these are all referred to genera already known to occur in these islands. Mr. Ridgway, moreover, finds it necessary to unite the generally recognized genera *Geospiza* and *Cactornis*, because some of the new species are of intermediate structure and bridge over the gap between these two genera.

60. *Ridgway on new Birds from the Mascarene Subregion.*

[Descriptions of some new Birds from Aldabra, Assumption, and Gloriosa Islands, collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvii. p. 371, 1894.]

Mr. Ridgway bases his new species on specimens in the collection made by Dr. W. L. Abbott (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1894, p. 314), of which he has made further studies, with assistance rendered by Prof. Newton. The following species are described:—*Zosterops aldabrensis*, *Z. madagascariensis gloriosæ*, *Cinnyris aldabrensis*, *C. abbotti* (from Assumption Island), *Centropus insularis* (from Aldabra and Assumption), and *Caprimulgus aldabrensis*.

61. *Sharpe and Wyatt on the Hirundinidæ.*

[A Monograph of the Hirundinidæ, or Family of Swallows. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., and Claude W. Wyatt. Parts XVIII.–XX. 4to. London. Sotheran & Co.]

We are much pleased to welcome the concluding treble part of this work, which, as now completed, is divided into two volumes, although the pagination and numbering of the plates are continuous throughout. In it the Swallows are fully illustrated by 64 plates and maps showing the geographical distribution of every genus.

The only plate given in these parts is that of *Psalidoprogne orientalis*, besides which there is a series of charts illustrating the distribution of the various genera.

62. *Witherby's 'Forest Birds.'*

[Forest Birds, their Haunts and Habits: short Studies from Nature. By Harry F. Witherby. 8vo. London, 1894. Kegan Paul & Co.]

Mr. Witherby's 'short Studies from Nature' contain an account of his experiences with eight familiar birds which he has met with in the New Forest and elsewhere. They are illustrated by reproductions of eight photographs, taken from the cases in which he has mounted the specimens of these birds in their natural attitudes. The letterpress is pleasingly written, but there are some slips (such as speaking of the

Nuthatch as belonging to the Scansores) which ought to have been avoided, and we cannot say that we are altogether satisfied with the plates.

XXIV.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed to the Editors, since our last issue :—

SIRS,—I have been engaged for some years in collecting information about the methods of catching wild birds employed in different parts of the world. This autumn I visited the North of Italy, to study the Italian *Uccellande*.

Professor Giglioli, Mr. Tait, and the Dean of Cairo have, among others, given me valuable aid. Mr. Littledale, of Baroda, has already forwarded a most interesting collection of snares. It occurs to me as possible that some of our Foreign Members, or brother Ibises residing abroad, may be kind enough to help on these enquiries. At all events I venture to make known my anxiety to explore the subject as thoroughly as circumstances may render possible.

The old Italian works of Antonio Valli and Olina are full of interesting particulars ; but I hope to trace out the evolution of fowling on a wide basis of facts.

Yours &c.,

Carlisle, Dec. 13th, 1894.

H. A. MACPHERSON.

SIRS,—As I visited the Zurich Museums a few weeks after Dr. Selater, I should like to supplement his information with a few remarks. It is perfectly true that there is no Swiss collection of Aves in the University Museum ; but it must not be inferred that there is no Swiss collection of birds at Zurich.

There is a capital museum of Swiss birds and mammals at the Zürichhorn, and the proprietor (Mr. Nägeli) is most obliging in furnishing information to visitors. I was delighted to find what a variety of birds visit the Canton of